

## SCHOOL BOARD TO BE SCENE OF TEACHERS' FIGHT ON JAKY LOEB

When the school board meets this afternoon to consider the final plea of the 67 teachers dropped by Jake Loeb's crew, the teachers' cause will be well represented by a body of citizens headed by Mary McDowell.

This will be the teachers' final chance to get their positions back before the opening of the schools next Tuesday. John W. Eckhardt, who, with Loeb, runs the board, says the teachers will get no more votes today than they got in June. But others say that Dr. Peter C. Clemensen has been won over to the justice of the teachers' fight and will vote for their reinstatement, and that other trustees are in doubt.

Whether the teachers have gained any trustees to their side during the summer will be shown. It is reported that several trustees have realized that Loeb's anti-Catholic moves may be construed as political.

The fight of the teachers is now more intense because of the discovery that if they lose out their pension fund can be confiscated and that teachers who believed themselves eligible for pensions will get nothing. Eckhardt, through the Chicago Tribune this morning, made a desperate effort to deny the pension fund was endangered, but the teachers have shown up the joker in the school board law to prove their case.

Trustee Charles Peterson announced yesterday he was going to vote against the Loeb rule. He is the latest convert. The teachers need two more.

One of the teachers who was dropped by the enforcement of the Loeb rule had the following to say of the pension situation:

"If it is true, as the papers have stated, that the rights of the teachers dropped by the board of education in June are endangered under the pension law, it is time some-

thing was done. Surely the people of Chicago are not going to allow teachers whose record of efficiency is unquestioned to be turned adrift in this summary fashion. It is bad enough to take away their means of livelihood, giving the man chance to to the force of the blow.

"If the rights of the teachers are taken away it means that they cannot accept a position elsewhere without losing their pensions. These teachers have worked in the Chicago public schools for years. They have paid hundreds of dollars into the pension fund, all of which will be taken from them.

"If the members of the board of education were seeking to benefit the schools by eliminating teachers whose presence is a detriment, they would proceed in a manner free from unusual malice. Punitive action takes away all claim of good intentions. Somebody is paying a personal or political grudge when so much unnecessary bitterness is put into the act. Teachers should be dropped from the service if their work is not good for the schools, but they should not be shut away from the possibility of earning a livelihood elsewhere, neither should their right to a pension be taken away nor their payments of past years confiscated.

"There is only one way to make the matter right. If there is the slightest possibility that the rights of the teachers under the pension law is in danger, the board of education should reinstate them at once and then proceed to protect the schools from inefficiency in some way which will not be open to a suspicion of malice and injustice. The schools belong to the people after all and the people will question the board of education about this and continue questioning until all is made clear."

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453,314 men and 241,924 women of Chicago may vote at primaries,